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MANLEY-HUNT
(WILLIAMSON)

KNOW YE, O PRINCE, THAT WITH THE SOUTHERN PROVINCES OF NEMEDIA UNDER THE AQUILONIAN HEEL, KING CONAN TURNED SOUTH TO THE BORDER OF OPHIR, WHERE QUEEN LEORA HAD SET A TRAP FOR HIM. THE AQUILONIAN KING COULD NOT KNOW THAT HE WAS APPROACHING THE...

...CROSSROADS

HOLD YOUR SPEARS. QUEEN LEORA WILL HAVE ANY WARRIOR PUT TO DEATH WHO LOOSES A SHAFT BEFORE THE SIGNAL.

DO THEY THINK THEIR CAUTION WILL SAVE THEM? I WISH THEY WOULD MAKE HASTE. THE VULTURES GROW IMPATIENT.

THE ROAD TO OPHIR COULD WELL BE OPEN TO US, PERYCK.

KEEP YOUR EYES AND EARS OPEN, YOU SOUND LIKE OVER-CONFIDENT FOOLS.

AYE. AND IF THEY LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS LIKE THE NEMEDIANS DID AT NUMALIA, THEN THE SPOILS WILL BE THAT MUCH MORE SWEET AND EASY, EH, PERYCK?

DON KRAAR • WRITER
JUDITH HUNTE • MIKE MANLEY • PENCILERS
ART NICHOLS • INKER
JANICE CHIANG • LETTERER
GEORGE ROUSSOS • COLORIST
LARRY HAMA • EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER - EDITOR IN CHIEF

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FATHER, OUR LUCK LOOKS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE. WE INVADE WITHOUT OPPOSITION AT THE BORDER!

IF THE OPHIRIANS HAVE LEFT THE PASS UNDEFENDED LIKE THE NEMEDIANS DID, IT'S MORE LUCK THAN ANY SOLDIER CAN EXPECT IN ONE LIFETIME.

AND THAT'S WHAT I'M AFRAID OF, PALLANTIDES AND WHY I ORDERED KUAGA'S MEN UP THE CLIFF FACE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PASS.

DON'T KILL THEM UNLESS THEY CATCH SIGHT OF US.

...SO STILL... SO QUIET... IT'S LIKE THE SILENCE BETWEEN THE FOOTSTEPS OF A GIANT.

YOU'RE UNEASY, DERYCK. WHAT TROUBLES YOU?

THIS SILENCE SPEAKS LIKE THUNDER.

I'LL END YOUR TROUBLES, YELLOW ONE.

YOU'VE HAD YOUR LAST CHANCE TO STRIKE!

KING CONAN'S WARRIORS HAVE OUTFLANKED US! *DEATH TO THE SCOUTS!*

AMBUSH, DERYCK! WE SHOULD HAVE KNOWN!

IF YOU DIDN'T YOU'RE A FOOL! NOW SPUR YOUR HORSES AND RIDE FOR YOUR LIVES!

PERYCK—? AND THE SCOUTS RIDE CLEAR! BUT IT SOUNDS LIKE KUAGA HAS ENGAGED THE ENEMY.

KING CONAN...

KING CONAN, OPHIRIAN AMAZONS ARE WAITING IN AMBUSH WITHIN THE PASS!

I THOUGHT AS MUCH. THAT'S WHY I SENT KUAGA AND HIS KUSHITES IN TO COVER YOUR FLANK.

SERVIUS GALLANNUS, GET YOUR BOSSONIAN ARCHERS IN POSITION. COVER KUAGA'S RETREAT.

AYE, MY KING.

IN THE ROCKS ABOVE THE PASS...

FALL BACK, THERE ARE TOO MANY OF THESE SHE-DEVILS!

QUICKLY--USE THE ROPES TO GET BACK DOWN THE WAY WE CAME UP OR OUR BONES WILL BLEACH IN THE SUN ON THESE ROCKS.

AGHHEEE!

KUSHITE YOU ARE FAR FROM YOUR HOMELAND AND HEIRS TO UNMARKED GRAVE!

AGHHEEEE!

WHAT MAGIC IS THIS? BOSSONIAN ARCHERS?

GALLANNUS, YOUR BOSSONIANS MUST HAVE RESORTED TO SORCERY TO ARRIVE IN TIME TO SAVE US.

NO, KUAGA. WE MERELY OBEYED KING CONAN'S ORDERS TO COME TO YOUR AID.

NOW, HURRY!

KING CONAN AVOIDED A DISASTER THIS DAY, OTHERWISE WE MIGHT HAVE BEEN SLAUGHTERED BY THE OPHIRIANS IN THE PASS.

THAT HE DID AND ALREADY HE SPEAKS OF MARCHING FOR ZINGARA TO ENGAGE THE ENEMY THERE, NOW HE KNOW THAT IT'S FUTILE TO ENGAGE THE OPHIRIANS HERE.

THAT NIGHT...

WE'VE LEARNED THE NORTHERN BORDER OF OPHIR IS IMPREGNABLE. WE'LL LEAVE A FORCE HERE TO PREVENT THEM FROM ESCAPING TO THE NORTH WHILE WE MARCH FOR POITAIN.

AND THEN ON TO ZINGARA, MY KING?

AYE, PALLANTIDES.

THEN WE CAN DRIVE THE KING OF ARGOS AND THE QUEEN OF OPHIR BACK TO THEIR OWN REALMS.

AYE, IN GOOD TIME.

MEANWHILE AT QUEEN LEORA AND KING XANTAGS' CAMP IN ZINGARA...

LEORA--YOUR HERALD DIDN'T ANNOUNCE YOUR ARRIVAL.

I PREFER MY HERALD TO BE ABLE TO PROCLAIM A VICTORY AS WELL AS MY ARRIVAL.

CONAN ELUDED ME AT THE NEMEDIAN BORDER. HE MUST HAVE SUSPECTED A TRAP AND PULLED HIS TROOPS BACK

WE STILL HAVE CRASSUS AND THE BOY TO USE AGAINST HIM.

NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT WE HAVE EACH OTHER--*DARLING.*

YOU KNOW BETTER THAN TO TAUNT ME, LEORA.

AND YOU KNOW BETTER THAN TO MAKE DEMANDS--*HERE!*

LEORA--I'VE NEVER BEEN KNOWN FOR MY PATIENCE. IF YOU EVER TRY TO HUMILIATE ME AGAIN... I'LL... I'LL...

YOU'LL POUT UNTIL I DO IT THE NEXT TIME, HA, HA, HA...

COME, PUT ON A PLEASANT FACE FOR THE ZINGARAN GRANDEES. WE MAY NEED THEM.

I'LL BE PLEASANT AS LONG AS YOU MIND YOUR MANNERS IN FRONT OF THEM.

EL MULLAH, YOU ARE WELCOME.

TEN THOUSAND THANKS, MOST GRACIOUS MONARCHS OF OPHIR AND ARGOS.

I WAS JUST TELLING KING XANTAUS THAT WE MAY ALL BE NEEDING EACH OTHER.

ALL MEN LONG FOR A CHANCE TO SERVE A WOMAN SUCH AS YOURSELF, O QUEEN.

THEN REMEMBER THAT WE SPEAK OF A MILITARY ALLIANCE AND NOT A LIAISON.

WHY DON'T YOU HAVE SOME WINE, EL MULLAH?

I... I ONLY MEANT...

TELL ME, WHY SHOULD WE THROW IN WITH YOU WHEN YOU'VE FAILED TO DEAL WITH CONAN IN THE PAST?

WHAT MAGIC PROTECTS US NOW?

WHAT?!

SUCH MAGIC AS YOU SEE BEFOR YOUR EYES.

THE SAME MAGIC WITH WHICH I WILL ENSNARE CONAN IN MY WEB ONCE AND FOR ALL.

WATCH!

THE SAME MAGIC THAT HAS MADE ME IMMUNE TO THE SERPENT'S VENOM, EVEN WHILE THE VENOM INCREASES MY OCCULT POWER.

THIS BOY IS AN ADEPT, MY STUDENT IN FACT, AND HE TOO POSSESSES SUCH POWER.

WHAT PART DOES HE PLAY IN THIS INTRIGUE?

HE WILL BE THE INSTRUMENT OF CONAN'S DESTRUCTION. IS THAT NOT SO?

IT SHALL BE JUST AS YOU SAY, MASTER.

THE BOY IS THE IMAGE OF KING CONAN HIMSELF.

HE SHOULD BE, HE IS CONAN'S SON EVEN THOUGH HE DOESN'T KNOW IT.

WE BOW BEFORE YOUR WISDOM AND YOUR INGENUITY. WHAT PART SHALL WE PLAY IN THIS DRAMA?

LISTEN CLOSELY AND I WILL UNFOLD IT FOR YOU.

POITAIN--AN AQUILONIAN FORTRESS ON THE ALIMANE RIVER THAT GUARDS THE APPROACH TO ZINGARA

GENERAL GAIUS FLAVIUS A HERALD PROCLAIMS THE APPROACH OF THE KING!

HAIL, CONAN!

WHEN DO WE MARCH ACROSS THE RIVER, O KING?

WELCOME BACK TO AQUILONIA OLD FRIEND

MY THANKS TROTSKO THERE IS MUCH THAT I'VE MISSED ABOUT AQUILONIA, BUT MOST OF ALL MY QUEEN

CONAN TARANTIA SEEMED LIKE A PRISON WITHOUT YOU

RADEGUND LOOKS WELL ZENOBIA HAS SHE HAD TIME TO SOFTEN HER HEART TOWARD ME A LITTLE?

WE'LL SOON SEE, MY HUSBAND

RADEGUND HAVE YOU NO WORD FOR YOUR FATHER?

COME NOW SOMETHING SIMPLE LIKE "HELLO"

RADEGUND

RADBOUND COME BACK HERE I WANT A WORD WITH YOU

DERYCK

HAVE YOU NOTHING TO SAY TO ME DERYCK NOTHING AT ALL?

YOU LOOK LIKE A GIRL I ONCE KNEW CALLED MOIRA SHE WAS AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU ARE, BUT SHE DIDN'T KNOW THE MEANING OF THE TRUTH

YOU'RE CRUEL DERYCK

I'M NO SOOTHSAYER, BUT I'D SAY YOUR SISTER'S IN LOVE WITH THE YOUNG AESIR

IT'S TIME I HAD A WORD WITH THAT SWAGGERING NORTHMAN AS WELL

I'LL BE THERE SOON TROUBLED AS SOON AS THE QUEEN AND I FINISH OUR BUSINESS.

MY KING YOUR OPPONENTS AWAIT YOU

REMEMBER MY HUSBAND YOU SWORE THAT NOTHING WOULD BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN FINDING OUR SON

AND I WILL LET NOTHING COME BEFORE THAT VOW. I SWEAR IT BY THE GODS

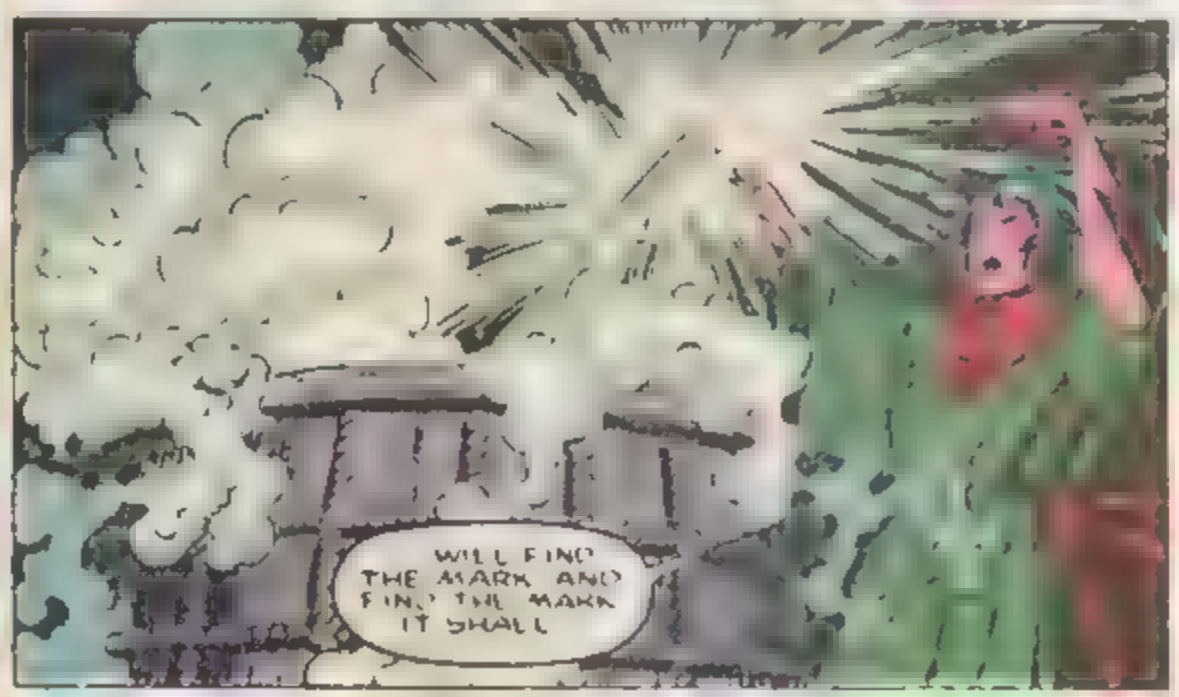
I KNOW IF ANY MAN CAN KEEP SUCH A VOW, YOU WILL.

THE
THEN T
THE CROWN
CALLED CONAN

REMEMBER
YOUR LESSONS
AND SHAME, THOSE
WHO TAUGHT YOU
PROUD OF YOU
AYE
MASTER I LIVE
TO PROVE WORTHY

NO ORDINARY
ARROW CAN FIND
KING CONAN'S
HEART

ANE
CONCEIVED
IN
HATRED


WILL FIND
THE MARK AND
FIND THE MARK
IT SHALL

AYE PERFECT IT IS TO LOOK AT IT ONE WOULD THINK IT IS AN ORDINARY

HAVE I PLEASED YOU MASTER?

THERE IS STILL ONE MORE THING HE MUST ACCOMPLISH

AYE JUST ONE MORE THING BUT FIRST WE SET THE TRAP WHEN CONAN RIDES INTO IT HIS DOOM WILL BE SEALED

THE NEXT DAY, NEAR THE ALIMANE RIVER..

BE CAREFUL, YOU STONE-HEARTED VIXENS, I'M NO GOOD TO YOU DEAD!

BUT BY MITRA I'LL PLAY MY PART

LEORA'S AMAZONS LIKE THIS GAME TOO MUCH TO SUIT ME. THERE'S NOTHING THEY LIKE MORE THAN CAPTURING A MAN FOR SLOW TORTURE.

BUT, CRASSUS WAS RIGHT, KING CONAN WILL BE WORTH MORE THAT I WILL TAKE FOR A RISK FOR HIM

GIVE THOSE AMAZON A HAIL OF CROSSBOW BOLTS!

HELP ME! I HAVE IMPORTANT NEWS FOR YOUR KING!

MITRA BE PRAISED! I THOUGHT THOSE OPHIRIAN SHE DEVILS WOULD FLAY ME ALIVE

YOUR MAJESTY ENJOY WITH US NOW WHAT BUSINESS DO YOU HAVE WITH KING CONAN?

CONDUCT ME TO HIS PRESENCE! MY WORDS ARE FOR HIS EARS ONLY!

KING CONAN EL MULLAH CHANCELLOR ZINGARA CRAVES AN AUDIENCE WITH YOU

AYE GREAT KING MY BUSINESS IS URGENT

KARIM FEZ, YOU

AYE, IT'S ME YOU JACKAL'S SPAWN

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS? WHAT IS THERE BETWEEN YOU?

MATTERS THAT CAN ONLY BE SETTLED IN BLOOD!

DEFEND YOURSELF DOG

I SWEAR ON THE BLOOD OF MY MURDERED CHILDREN THAT I WILL TAKE VENGEANCE ON YOU

YOUR BLADE WILL HAVE TO BE KEENER THAN YOUR WITS OLD MAN

ENOUGH!

BEFORE YOU SETTLE YOUR DIFFERENCES I'LL HEAR WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY, EL MULLAH

I HAVE HEARD IT SAID THAT YOU SEARCH FOR YOUR SECOND SON WHO WAS KIDNAPED AT BIRTH

THEN YOU'VE HEARD THE TRUTH, WHAT CAN YOU ADD TO IT, ZINGARAN?

THAT I HAVE FOUND A BOY AMONG PEASANTS IN THE MOUTAINS WHO IS THE LIVING IMAGE OF YOU

BE CAREFUL, CONAN, I BELIEVED HIS LIES ONCE YEARS AGO... MY FAMILY WAS MURDERED BECAUSE OF IT.

I'M LEFT WITH LITTLE CHOICE BUT TO GIVE HIM THE BENEFIT OF THE DOUBT AS AN ALLY, KARIM FEZ, I ASK YOU TO PUT ASIDE YOUR QUARREL UNTIL WE LEARN THE TRUTH

THEN YOU ARE WISE AS WELL AS VALIANT KING CONAN YOUR TRUST WILL BE REWARDED.

DON'T LISTEN TO HIS HONEYED WORDS MY FRIEND THEY WILL LURE YOU INTO TREACHERY BELIEVE ME, I KNOW

MY VOW TO QUEEN ZENOBIA DEMANDS THAT I PURSUE ANY POSSIBILITY OF FINDING OUR SON, NO MATTER HOW GREAT THE RISK

I SWEAR YOU WILL NOT REGRET IT

THERE WILL BE GREAT REJOICING IN AQUILONIA AFTER TODAY, MARK MY WORDS.

AND AS FOR US, KARIM FEZ, WE ZINGARANS WILL HAVE TO SETTLE OUR DIFFERENCES ANOTHER DAY.

FETCH MY HORSE, WE'LL SCOUT THIS PLACE ACROSS THE RIVER THAT EL MULLAH HAS SPOKEN OF BEFORE. WE RIDE OUT TOMORROW.

FATHER ? BE YOU NOT TOLD MY KIN RAWLS AT THE SIGHT OF THIS ILL MULLAH

AYE ORDINARILY I WOULDN'T TRUST HIM AS FAR AS I CAN THROW THE ROYAL PALACE AT TARANTIA

BUT, I WILL NOT DISAPPOINT YOUR MOTHER IF YOUR BROTHER LIVES, THEN ONLY DEATH CAN KEEP ME FROM HIM

MY FATHER'S BENEVOLENCE I CAN SINCE IT RUFIO

AYE, I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THIS BUSINESS AT ALL, CONN

AND THIS IS AS GOOD A TIME AS ANY TO HAVE IT OUT WITH CONNOR ABOUT KALEGUNA!

CAREFUL. HE'S A PROUD YOUNG HOTHEAD

THERE'S NO AND I HAVE NOTHING TO HIDE

NO MATTERS THAT I'M AWARE OF, MY PRINCE

THERE'S THE MATTER OF MY MOTHER PRINCE'S DEATH AND YOU DENY THAT?

I DENY NOTHING. I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY

NOW LEAVE ME IN PEACE

WAIT

I LAY A ROYAL HAND ON ME AND I'M LIABLE TO LOP IT OFF!

STOP IT! I BEG OF YOU TO SETTLE THIS WITHOUT BLOODSHED

WE'LL SETTLE THIS ALL RIGHT

WITHOUT OUR SWORDS

BE CAREFUL, ONN DON'T UNLEASH MATE THE HERK

I'LL BEAT YOUR ROYAL HIDE TO A FINE PULP!

I'LL BELIEVE YOU OF YOUR SWAGGER, NORTHMAN!

YOUR SISTER MEANS NOTHING TO ME. I WISH I'D NEVER SET EYES ON HER!

I YOU MAY FEEL DIFFERENTLY WHEN I'VE KNOCKED THAT SMUG LOOK OFF YOUR FACE.

STOP IT! STOP IT! THIS HA[illegible] FAR FROM HELPING. WON'T SETTLE ANYTHING THIS WAY

UGH!

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT HIM BUT I FEEL BETTER ALREADY.

WELL YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE FEELING ANY TOO GOOD NOW!

LET THEM FIGHT FOR NOW

FOR A DAY IS APPROACHING WHEN THEY WILL LEARN THAT THEY NEED EACH OTHER.

AND THEN THEY'LL LOOK BACK ON THIS WITH LAUGHTER.

TELATA, WAIT

RURIO WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

CONN PERYCK.

NOW'S YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE ME FLOGGED!

TRUE ENDING
NO NOT
TRUE ENDING

LOOK AFTER YOUR FATHER MY CHRONICLE AND LOOK AFTER YOURSELF SEE THAT NO HARM COMES TO YOU BEFORE WE MEET AGAIN

YOU MAY DEPEND ON IT

HE'S A PROUD STUBBORN FOOL.

ARE JUST LIKE YOU, LLANN

THAT YOU ARE BOTH OF YOU

WHAT?

YOU AND DERYCK HAVE MORE IN COMMON THAN YOU KNOW IN TIME DESTINY WILL REVEAL IT

ZELATA* WHY DO YOU CONCERN YOURSELF WITH OUR QUARREL?

I DON'T IT'S PETTY COMPARED TO THE DANGERS THAT YOUR FATHER'S BRINGING INTO TOMORROW

NOW TAKE HEED, THE GODS WILL ONLY ALLOW ME TO HELP YOU UP TO A POINT

HERE--I WILL LEND YOU MY EYES, THEY CAN WARN YOU OF EL MULLAH'S TREACHERY GIVE THEM FREELY

YOU MUST HAVE [illegible] FOR CONCENTRATION [illegible] IN THE [illegible] ZELATA

AYE THIS IS GRAVE BUSINESS ALL RIGHT.

THE STARS THAT INFLUENCE YOUR FATHER'S DESTINY ARE IN BAD ASPECT HE IS APPROACHING A *DEATH PORTAL* AND ONLY THIS EAGLE AND YOUR V GILANCE CAN PREVENT HIM FROM PASSING THROUGH IT FOR NOW

Arawn

THE BOY LI[illegible] WITH P[illegible] WHO WERE [illegible] ANOTHER [illegible] CHANGED THE LAY [illegible] UNAWARE OF T

TIME WILL REVEAL THE TRUTH OF WHAT WE BELIEVE EL MULLAH LEAD ON

THE APPROACH TO THIS ANCIENT TEMPLE IS A PERFECT PLACE FOR AN AMBUSH, GREAT KING.

THAT S WHY MY [illegible] COMMANDED HE REAR GUARD INGAKAN

A REARGUARD WITH EYES IN THE HEAVENS

IT S TRUE I [illegible] THAT THE KING [illegible] KNOW WHAT AND [illegible] KARIM FEZ ARE RIDING PARALLEL TO OUR LINE OF MARCH.

TRUE ENOUGH
BUT YOU KNOW
ALSO MY BLOOD FEUD
WITH THAT DARK ONE
DATES FROM THE
OLD DAYS

LOOK!
JUST AS
LONN HAS
ZELATA'S
EYES!

THE CASTLE
SEEMS NOT UN
AHEAD AS WELL

IT WILL ONLY
BE WHEN I THE KING

THERE -- JUST AS CRASSUS PLANNED AND AS EL MULLAH PROMISED, NOW CONAN RIDES TO HIS DEATH, XANTAUS

GET YOUR MEN IN POSITION, CAPTAINS, BUT DO NOT ATTACK UNTIL I GIVE THE SIGNAL

WHERE ARE THESE PEASANTS THAT YOU SPOKE OF, EL MULLAH?

THEY WAIT WITHIN THE RUINS OF THE TEMPLE KING CONAN I PROMISED THAT THEY WOULD BE WELL REWARDED IF THE BOY IS YOUR SON

THERE'S SOMETHING FAMILIAR ABOUT THAT BEARDED FACE I SWEAR I'VE SEEN HIM BEFORE

WHAT WANT YOU THINK I KNOW WITH FELLOW CONAN?

THE WAY THE HAIR ON THE BACK OF MY NECK STAND ON END WHY IT MAKE TOPLIK HIMSELF AMONG ALL THE DEVILS IN HELL

CRASSUS-- WHAT TREACHERY IS THIS?

TREACHERY, GREAT KING? OH NO I ONLY WANT TO [illegible] THE STARS ARE IN ASPECT

[illegible] WILL KEEP YOUR CONAN EVEN IF IT [illegible] LAST [illegible] QUEEN ARE OPEN

CRASSUS WHERE ARE YOU YOU DEVIL IN THE FLESH?

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] STAY WITH THE KING WHILE I TURN COIN TROPES TO FACE THE ENEMY THAT HE TRAFFICKED

AYE CONN I LL FOLLOW HIM LIKE A SHADOW

OUR WINGED SCOUT RETURNS!

CRY HAVOC!

NOT BEFORE I SEND YOU TO JOIN THEM, OLD FOOL!

I'LL TAKE THAT TO THE MADMAN WHO FELL ON YOUR CORPSE!

KILL HIM AND BE DONE WITH IT NOW!

THERE'S MUCH I HAVE TO TELL YOU, BUT I WILL HAVE TO WAIT COME WITH ME, TAURUS.

TAURUS...?

NO--DON'T SHOOT!

UGH!

SO ENDS THE RE[illegible]N OF KING CONAN!

NO . NO THIS SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN!

CRASSUS YOU MADE ME BETRAY MYSELF I KNOW I CAN FEEL IT!

SHUT THE BOY UP AND LET HIM BE GONE

MITRA GRANT THAT WHAT I SEE IS A MAGICIAN'S ILLUSION AND NOT THE TRUTH

HOLD UP! YOU CAN BE SURE I KNOW THAT THE KING AI AKTON THE [illegible]

BY THE GOD'S THAT WOUND LOOKS MORTAL

RUFIO TELL ME THAT HE STILL LIVES I BEG YOU

AYE, MY PRINCE, HE'S STILL ALIVE, BUT JUST BARELY

WE'RE A LONG WAY FROM A SURGEON AND HE MIGHT NOT SURVIVE THE JOURNEY TO REACH ONE

YOU CUT AN ARROW OUT OF ME WHEN WE WERE IN KHITAI ONLY YOU CAN SAVE HIM NOW

I CAN'T DARE THE KING'S LIFE WOULD BE IN MY HANDS

RUFIO YOU *MUST* I'D RATHER TRUST YOU THAN ANOTHER

THEN MAY THE GODS GUIDE MY HANDS MY PRINCE

LET'S GET THIS ARMOR OFF OF HIM

TELL US WHAT TO DO RUFIO

LISTEN THE SHAFT IS NEXT TO HIS HEART THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO GET IT OUT THE ARROWHEAD WILL HAVE TO BE PUSHED THROUGH HIS BACK

HOLD HIM STILL 'UM'

MAY THE GODS BE PRAISED HE'S STILL BREATHING! BUT, THEN THE KING WAS ALWAYS A HARD MAN TO KILL

THERE'S SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS ABOUT THIS CROSSBOW BOLT IT LOOKS ORDINARY ENOUGH BUT IT WEARS THERE'S MORE HERE THAN MEETS THE EYE

MY PRINCE WE CANNOT DEFEND THIS POSITION SECURELY AFTER NIGHTFALL WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS?

TO PROTECT THE KING AT ALL COSTS

STILL I HATE TO LEAVE THIS PLACE WITHOUT MAKING EL MULI AN EXAMPLE OF HIM TREACHERY

HE EVENT OF
AN ATTACK

I KNOW
ATTACK
CONN

AN OLD BARD ON N
THE MOUNTAINS WHEN I
WAS MY FAMILY LIVING A
LIFE WAR FREE NOT MUCH
THEM FROM THEIR HOME I AM
WOULD NEVER HAVE
FOUND THEM

AT PERYCK AN
ARMY WOULD HAVE
GREAT DIFFICULTY
APPROACHING IT

SLIGHTEST JOLT
COULD MAKE HIM
START BLEEDING
AGAIN

MEANWHILE

THE ENEMY IS MOVING BACK ACROSS THE RIVER TO POSITION CONAN MUST BE DEAD

THIS MISERABLE DOG ADMITS THAT CONAN STILL LIVES!

AYE FOR THE TIME BEING FOR I CAN STILL FOLLOW THE BEAT OF HIS HEART IN THE COSMOS

BUT HE WOULD BE DEAD NOW IF THIS WHELP HAD PLAYED HIS PART AS HE WAS TOLD

CRASSUS, THERE'S MORE TO THIS THAN YOU'VE TOLD ME

HE'S REALLY A SPIRITED BRAT, ISN'T HE?

THERE'S SOMETHING BETWEEN KING CONAN AND ME THAT YOU'VE NEVER REVEALED CRASSUS HE CALLED ME TAURUS

SEIZE HIM!

YOU FILTHY CURS DARE TO LAY HANDS ON ME?

FOOLS! THE SERPENT'S VENOM IN MY VEINS MAKES THE TOUCH OF MY FLESH UNBEARABLE TO MORTAL HANDS

KING CONAN, WILL DIE, I SWEAR IT, BUT, FIRST YOU'LL LEARN TO DO AS YOU'RE TOLD!

THERE'S LITTLE THAT WE CAN DO ABOUT THAT EXCEPT KEEP HIM WARM AND HOPE THAT HE SWEATS IT OUT

CONN

FATHER YOU'RE AWAKE DON'T TRY TO SPEAK YOU'RE TOO WEAK

RUFIO STAY WITH THE KING. REMEMBER I M RELY NG ON YOU.

AYE, MY PRINCE, I'LL DIE BEFORE I FAIL YOU

CONN I VE HAND PICKED BODY GUARDS FOR THE KING

... CIMMERIAN AND AESIR, BERSERKS TO A MAN. THE ENEMY WILL NEVER BE ABLE TO OVER-WHELM THEM

AYE, ON THAT YOU CAN RELY, RUFIO

THE KING SHOULD BE SAFE TIL MORNING BUT HURRY BACK

AND YOU CAN RELY ON ME, CONN, UNT - THIS CRISIS S PAST THEN WE CAN FIND TIME TO SETTLE OUR D FERENCES

AND YOU MAY RELY ON CRASSUS TO DO HIS VERY BEST TO DESTROY CONAN FOR ALL ETERNITY

THE STARS ARE IN ASPECT AND CONAN APPROACHES A DEATH PORTAL NOW I'LL SUMMON UP HOSTS OF DARKNESS TO USHER HIM TO ARALU

WE'VE GIVEN YOU MORE CHANCES THAN YOU DESERVE, STYGIAN DON'T FAIL US THIS TIME

GO. AND TAKE THE BOY OUT OF MY SIGHT I'LL DEAL WITH HIM LATER

BE CAREFUL I DON'T DEAL WITH YOU IN TIME CRASSUS

TONIGHT THE SERPENT'S VENOM WILL INCREASE MY POWERS AS NEVER BEFORE. TONIGHT, I'LL RISK EVERYTHING TO DESTROY THIS BARBARIAN KING.

FOR TONIGHT EVERY EVIL SPIRIT ABOUT THE EARTH WILL MANIFEST ITSELF IN FLESH TO DO MY BIDDING.

"AND FROM OUT OF THE GHOUL-HAUNTED FORESTS AND FIEND-RIDDEN SWAMPS IN ZINGARA ..."

"... I'LL SUMMON A LEGION OF THE ACCURSED TO UNLEASH ON KING CONAN."

CONTINUED IN ISSUE # 39 --
THE TOWER

KING CONAN

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

LARRY HAMA
EDITOR
PAT REDDING
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Attention correspondents: If you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Crom and Mitra,

You've now another Conan fan to hear from. I discovered the Carter/DeCamp paperbacks two years ago and was hooked. Shortly afterward, I spotted the Barbarian on the Marvel rack and I decided to check it out. I'll admit that I had stero-typed comic books as being only Saturday-morning-cartoon-type superhero characters . . . regrettably, I had avoided the comic racks until I was about twenty-five. I'm really impressed with your three Conan titles. I like this barbarian's adventures. I prefer the hint of realism in this character, his code of honor, and Samaritan qualities.

I've collected all of the CONAN THE KING series, and KING CONANS. I had to write in to praise the imaginative writers and superb artists on their outstanding efforts to produce what must be the best comic. I think that the new plot which began with #20 brought on a vast improvement. The story fits the king's role better than ever, and every issue seems to add a new intriguing element. And the art has been consistently awesome! If the bi-monthly frequency is necessary to maintain this excellent standard, you won't hear any protest from me.

In earlier issues, I noticed a request for readers to submit suggestions for re-naming the letters page, but until this last issue, nothing further did I notice. I suggest "Conan's Kingdom," since his fans could be considered loyal subjects of his kingdom. How did it look on the envelope?

I'm currenly deployed in the Indian and Pacific Oceans and I subscribe to all three titles, so I won't miss any more, ever. I still regret my previous ignorance of the Marvel Universe. I'm currently ordering and receiving back issues of SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN and CONAN THE BARBARIAN; I'll comment on them at a later date.

Wandering, thieving, wenching, ale-guzzling, and conquering kingdoms (with everyone's favorite barbarian) has been a most thrilling pasttime to look forward to between watches in the steaming, belching pits deep in the bowels of this ship.

Now for a bit of interrogation:

What was the significance of the sinister-looking boy with the ring in #27?

Where was the adaptation in Annual #7 continued?

I would like to collect all comics with the Cimmerian . . . could you print a list of other titles with him guest-starring? I already acquired SAVAGE TALES (Vol. 1—ed.) #4 and #5, and two of the Marvel treasury editions, and WHAT IF (*Conan lived in the twentieth century*)—very well done. Are there any others? Besides the unaffordable first three SAVAGE TALES?

CONAN THE KING #35 proves, without a shadow of a doubt, that an outstanding issue is possible without excessive sword-swinging, monsters, demons, or sorcerers.

Thanks for all of your superb efforts.

Now, that's teamwork!

Tony McGarry R-Div.
USS Sacramento AOE-1
FPO Seattle, WA 98799-3012

It's a mystery to this day, Tony. Only Alan Zelenetz knows, and he isn't telling.

But, since we haven't dealt with it yet, it obviously isn't all that significant.

And no, it was not continued.

King Conan,

I've been a reader of the SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN for three years, but for some reasons, I always passed over getting CONAN THE KING. Crom curse me for a fool! I'm now scrambling to get all of the back issues, and I'm enjoying them immensely! I didn't think that a four-color comic could do justice to my favorite Cimmerian, but the artwork is stunning and the stories are something to cheer about!

I just finished reading issue #35. All of the supporting cast are terrific, especially Conn. He could easily carry his own title. King Conan's uniform slightly resembles the garb of a certain Asgardian god, but I won't complain! The current villains, King Xantaus, Queen Leora, and the wicked Crassus are excellent. And, I can really feel the love that Conan has for both Zenobia and Radegund.

One question: I just reread CONAN OF AQUILONIA by L. Sprague de Camp and Lin Carter. Has the final battle between Conan and Thoth-Amon ever been told in any Conan comics?

Sincerely,
Adam Schultz
Satellite Beach
Florida

No. Not the *final* battle.

Dear Marvel,

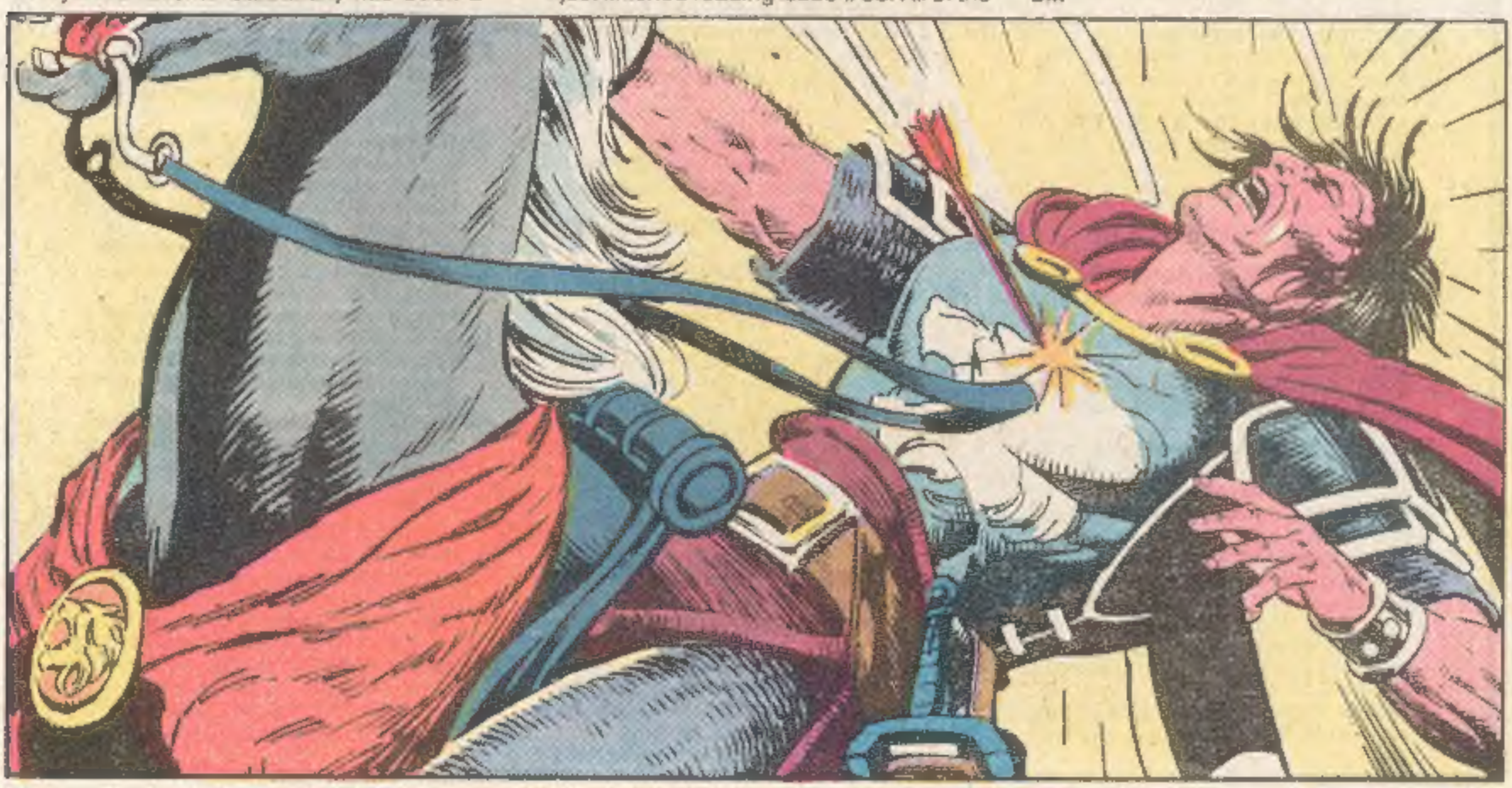
I am a newcomer to CONAN THE KING. I spotted what I thought seemed to be an interesting comic in a local convenience store. It was CONAN THE KING. I bought it and I enjoyed it thoroughly.

The art was exquisite, and the characters were exciting, and, most important, believable. One of my favorites was King Xantaus; his role was thrillingly malevolent. On the other hand, the role of King Tarascus was not very believable, nor was he as convincing in his evilness. But a comic cannot be perfect, though CONAN THE KING comes very close. I will indeed look for more CONAN THE KING comic books in the future.

Keith Duperreault
(the Conan fan)
address unknown

P.S. Please, keep up the good work.

Of course, of course. We welcome your commentaries, you out there, barbarians all.



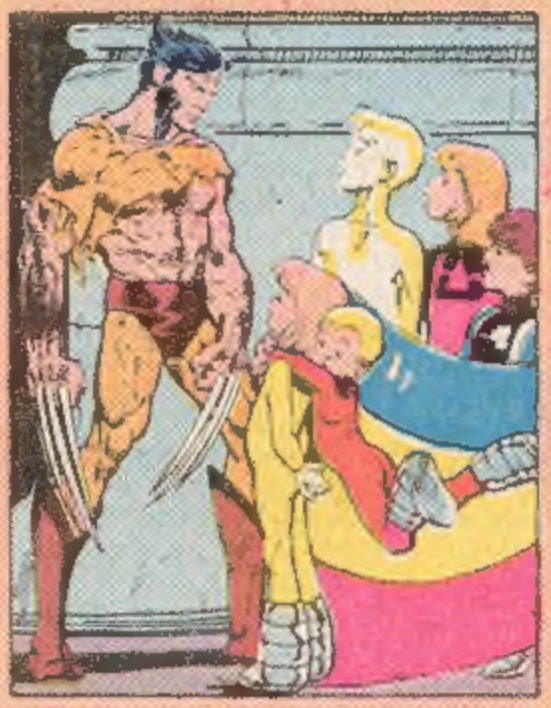
BULLPEN BULLETINS

The Best-Kept Secret in Comics . . .

. . . is one of the best comics – a title that comics professionals rate at the top of the list every issue. Go ahead, ask Chris Claremont, Ann Nocenti, or John Romita about **Power Pack**. They'll say it's the cat's PJ's.

Maybe that's why so many of the creative types around here love to do cross-overs with the **Pack**. Take this month, for instance—**X-Men #211**, a pivotal issue in the current Mutant Massacre Saga, crosses over into **Power Pack #27**, Dynamite.

Both of these books are on sale during August and September, respectively. Because **Power Pack** is sold only in comics specialty shops, you'll have to find your way to one. If you don't know of one near you, check the Yellow Pages under "books, new and used." Or, check the classified ads in the (or any other) comic book. A lot of dealers advertise and do mail-orders.



The New Universe . . .

. . . began with a big bang, so to speak. If you're wondering what it's all about, think about this. If today you discovered that, suddenly, you were able to bench press a Buick, or melt New Jersey to slag with a wave of your hand, don't you think your life would very quickly become a whole lot more interesting? Think about it. What would really happen to you and your life right there where you live?

You've got to see the New Universe.

That's All For Now.

See you next month.

Stay cool,

Jim Shooter
Editor in Chief

CHECKLIST

- ☐ **DAKOTA NORTH #4**
- ☐ **DAREDEVIL #237**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE MISSIONS #2**
- ☐ **NEW MUTANTS #46**—Special Morlock massacre tie-in with *X-Men!*
- ☐ **STRIKEFORCE: MORITURI #1**—They are a select group of super-powered individuals. They each gained their powers at a dreadful cost! They are Moriturl—"We who are about to die!" Brought to you by PETER B. GILLIS (writer) and BRENT ANDERSON with SCOTT WILLIAMS (artists).
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS MOVIE (Limited Series) #1**—That's right! It's the official Marvel adaptation of that animated motion picture blockbuster! Script by RALPH MACCHIO! Art by DON PERLIN and AKIN & GARVEY!
- ☐ **WEB OF SPIDER-MAN #21**
- ☐ **WEST COAST AVENGERS #15**
- ☐ **ALPHA FLIGHT #41**—Introducing the Purple Girl!
- ☐ **AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #283**—With the Avengers!
- ☐ **CAPTAIN AMERICA #324**—Nomad's back!
- ☐ **DOCTOR STRANGE #80**
- ☐ **LABYRINTH (Limited Series) #2**
- ☐ **POWER PACK #27**—A Morlock/Marauder tie-in with *X-Men/X-Factor!*
- ☐ **AMAZING HIGH ADVENTURE #5**—A potpourri of excitement, thanks to KEN STEACY, STEVE PURCELL, MIKE BARON and BILL MANTLO!
- ☐ **AVENGERS #274**
- ☐ **CONAN THE BARBARIAN #189**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE #54**
- ☐ **HOWARD THE DUCK (Limited Series) #1**—Howard's movie exploits are chronicled in this special adaptation by DANNY FINGEROTH (writer) and KYLE BAKER (artist)!
- ☐ **INCREDIBLE HULK #326**—Meet Rick Jones, the all-new, all-grey Incredible Hulk!
- ☐ **MARVEL TALES #194**—Reprinting *Marvel Team-Up #59* by CHRIS CLAREMONT and JOHN BYRNE.
- ☐ **THE 'NAM #1**—Follow the Vietnam war one month at a time in this unique eight-year limited series! You'll be recruited into a fighting unit! You'll battle the Vietcong! You'll experience the excitement, the danger, the laughs, the fear and the insanity of this undeclared war, thanks to Vietnam vet DOUG MURRAY (writer) and MICHAEL GOLDEN (artist)!
- ☐ **X-MEN #212**—Wolverine battles Sabretooth in this Morlock tie-in with *New Mutants!*
- ☐ **MARVEL SAGA #13**—Featuring the origins of Daredevil, Elektra, the Black Widow, and lots more!
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS UNIVERSE #1**—The complete low-down on every Transformer you've ever met!
- ☐ **FANTASTIC FOUR #297**—Welcome ROGER STERN (writer), JOHN BUSCEMA (penciler) and SAL BUSCEMA (inker), the new storytelling team!
- ☐ **IRON MAN #213**
- ☐ **PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #121**
- ☐ **THOR #374**—It's another Morlock crossover with *X-Factor* and *Power Pack!*
- ☐ **TRANSFORMERS #23**
- ☐ **X-FACTOR #11**—A special Morlock crossover with the mighty *Thor!*
- ☐ **CLASSIC X-MEN #4**—Reprinting *X-Men #96*, with new material by CHRIS CLAREMONT, JOHN BOLTON and DAVE COCKRUM!
- ☐ **G.I. JOE UNIVERSE #2**
- ☐ **G.I. JOE DIGEST #1**—Presenting the early adventures of the Joes in chronological order, beginning with *G.I. Joe #1!*
- ☐ **THE OFFICIAL HANDBOOK OF THE MARVEL UNIVERSE #13**—Meet everyone from Super-Adaptoid to the Thing!

MARVEL MAGAZINES

- ☐ **MARVEL AGE #45**—Featuring more info about everything you see here, with a couple of surprises!
- ☐ **SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN #130**

EPIC COMICS

- ☐ **MOONSHADOW (Limited Series) #10**—You can't go home again, so where do you go?
- ☐ **GROO THE WANDERER #22**
- ☐ **ELEKTRA: ASSASSIN (Limited Series) #3**—S.H.I.E.L.D. has got Elektra, but can they keep her?
- ☐ **ALIEN LEGION #16**
- ☐ **ELFQUEST #17**
- ☐ **STEELGRIP STARKEY (Limited Series) #4**—Who is mining the moon?

STAR COMICS

- ☐ **HUGGA BUNCH #2**—Danger waits in the magic Ice Palace!
- ☐ **THUNDERCATS #7**—Return to Thundera!
- ☐ **STAR DIGEST #1**—Presenting the classic early adventures of your favorite Star Comics characters—Heathcliff, Muppet Babies, Ewoks and Top Dog!
- ☐ **ANIMAX #1**—Excitement galore awaits you in this action-packed series featuring the Motor Mutants! Written by WALT SIMONSON with art by STEVE PURCELL and GERRY TALAOC!
- ☐ **HEATHCLIFF #13**
- ☐ **DROIDS #5**—Artoo and Threepio are separated!
- ☐ **POPPLES #1**—They're stars on TV and in the movies, and now they are "popping" up in their own Star Comic! Follow along as they go on an exciting and funny spy hunt!
- ☐ **TOP DOG #11**—Versus the vicious Dirty Dog, Top Dog's brother! Yipe!

NEW UNIVERSE

- ☐ **NIGHT MASK #2**—Night Mask enters the dreams of his first patient, but will he cure the patient . . . or kill him?
- ☐ **PSI FORCE #2**—Their protector is dead! The CIA is after them! Sanctuary is far, far away, and Psi Force is fighting for their lives!
- ☐ **KICKERS, INC. #2**—You want off-beat action? You've come to the right place! The Kickers find that "There's a Robot in my Rose Garden!"
- ☐ **MARK HAZZARD: MERC #2**—Danger follows a mercenary wherever he goes—as Hazzard finds out when he takes his son to a ball game!
- ☐ **D.P.7 #2**—The Clinic sends out its top agents to retrieve the Displaced Paranormals. And the agents live up to their names—Vice Versa, Shrapnel, and Headhunter!
- ☐ **JUSTICE #2**—Justice is searching for the beings who trapped him in this universe! Unfortunately, it seems that everyone else is searching for Justice!
- ☐ **SPITFIRE AND THE TROUBLESHOOTERS #3**—Everyone wants the MACS armor—and only Spitfire can keep it away from them!
- ☐ **STAR BRAND #3**—It's hard to keep the Star Brand a secret! A ruthless foreign dictator wants it—and no one's going to stop him!

GRAPHIC NOVEL

- ☐ **DAREDEVIL**—The Kingpin is seeking to cure his wife, Vanessa, of madness. He's hired the best psychiatrist available by kidnaping the psychiatrist's wife. She'll live . . . if Vanessa is cured. But there are other psychos roaming the streets . . . and then there's Daredevil . . . . Don't miss this psychological thriller written by FRANK MILLER and painted by BILL SIENKIEWICZ!